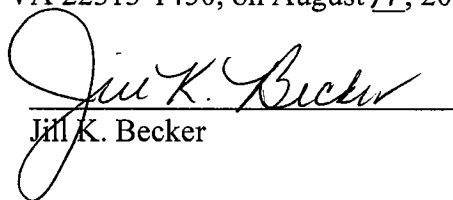


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Amemiya et al. Confirmation No.: 7118  
Serial No.: 10/645,129 Group Art Unit: 2188  
Filed: 08/21/2003 Examiner: Ellis, Kevin L.  
Title: GROUPING OF STORAGE MEDIA BASED ON PARAMETERS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE STORAGE MEDIA

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically  
to: Examiner Kevin L. Ellis, Group Art Unit 2188, United States Patent  
and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 14, 2006.

  
Jill K. Becker

Date of Signature: August 14, 2006

To: Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Response To Office Action**

Dear Sir:

This Response to Office Action is being submitted in reply to the Office Action  
mailed April 12, 2006 for the above-referenced patent application. A response to the Office  
Action was initially due on or before July 12, 2006, and thus, a Request For Extension Of  
Time and the requisite fee are enclosed herewith. Therefore, this Response is being timely  
filed.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.